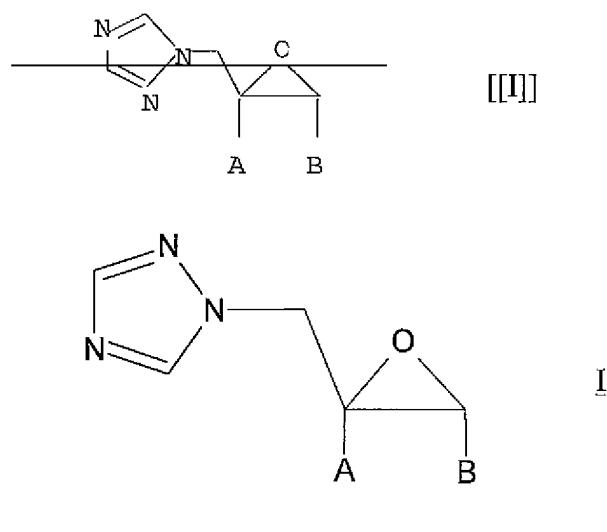


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

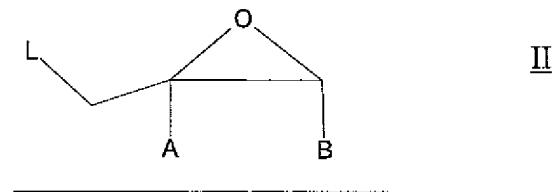
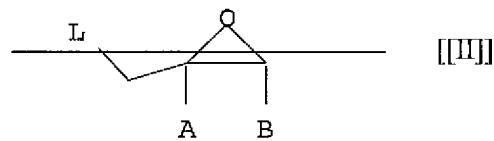
20. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl methyloxiranes of the formula I



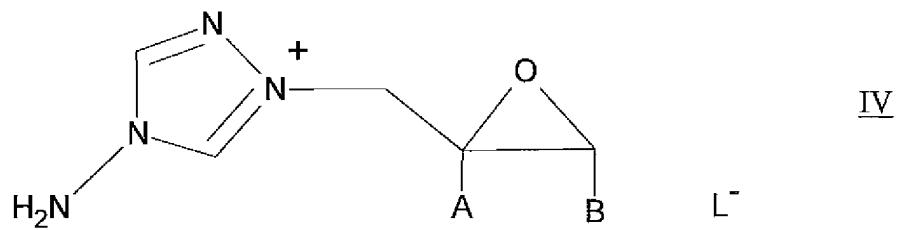
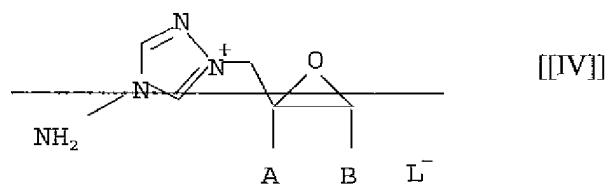
in which A and B are identical or different and, independently of one another, are C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl-C₁-C₂-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkenyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, dioxanyl or phenyl, where the phenyl radical can carry one to three substituents chosen from the group: halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkyloxy, phenoxy, amino, C₁-C₂-haloalkyl or phenylsulfonyl,

which comprises reacting

a) an oxirane of the formula II



in which A and B have the meanings given above and L is a nucleophilically substitutable leaving group, with 4-amino-1,2,4-triazole of the formula III



to give 4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium salts of the formula IV and

b) deaminating the 4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium salts IV with alkali metal nitrites and acid or organic nitrites to give 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl methyloxiranes of the formula I.

21. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the reaction in stage a) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent.

22. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 21, wherein alcohols, ketones, nitriles, esters, organic carbonates, nonaromatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, ethers, amides, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane or mixtures thereof are used as organic solvent.

23. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in either claim 20 or 21, wherein the organic solvent used is methanol, ethanol, butanols, isopropanol, pentanols, hexanols, octanols, decanols, methyl glycol, ethyl glycol, n-butyl glycol, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, acetonitrile, propionitrile, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, tetrahydrofuran, dimethoxyethane, dioxane, dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidone, tetramethylurea, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane or mixtures thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the organic solvent used is n-butyl glycol, 2-ethylhexanol or mixtures thereof with toluene.

25. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the reaction in stage a) is carried out at temperatures of from 50 to 150°C.

26. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the reaction in stage a) is carried out in the presence of 0.01-5 mol% of a catalyst or 5-300 mol% of an auxiliary.

27. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 26, wherein quaternary ammonium salts, quaternary phosphonium salts and betaines are used as catalyst and/or nucleophilic anions and amines are used as auxiliaries.

28. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in any of claims 26 to 27, wherein tetrabutylammonium chloride and 4-dimethylsulfonium phenoxide are used as catalyst and/or cyanides, iodides, fluorides, 1,4-diaza-bicyclo[2.2.2]octan (DABCO), dimethylaminopyridine, dimethylcyclohexylamine, tributylamine, triethylamine or 1,8-diaza-bicyclo[5.4.0]-7-undecen (DBU) are used as auxiliaries.

29. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the 4-aminotriazolium salts of the formula IV formed in stage a) are separated off from the reaction mixture by precipitation and/or crystallization.

30. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 29, wherein the precipitation and/or crystallization of the 4-aminotriazolium salts of the formula IV is carried out at temperatures below 10°C.

31. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the 4-aminotriazolium salts of the formula IV formed in stage a) are extracted from the reaction mixture by continuous and/or discontinuous extraction.

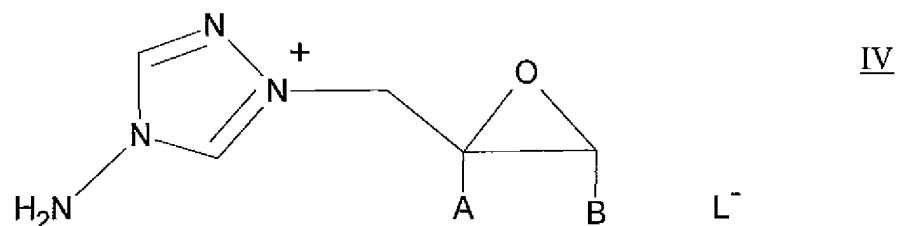
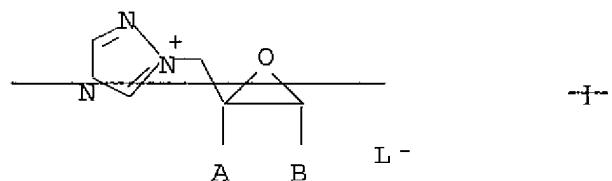
32. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the continuous and/or discontinuous extraction is carried out with water, optionally in the presence of a water-immiscible organic solvent.

33. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the deamination in stage b) is carried out in aqueous solution, ~~water/THF~~ water/tetrahydrofuran, water/alcohols or ~~water/ NMP~~ water/N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone.

34. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the deamination in stage b) is carried out with organic nitrites in aqueous or organic solution or in aqueous/organic solvent mixtures such as ~~water/THF~~ water/tetrahydrofuran, water/alcohols, ~~water/ NMP~~ water/N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone.

35. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in either claim 33 or 34, wherein the deamination in stage b) is carried out at a temperature of from -10 to 60°C.

36. (Currently Amended) A 4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium salt of the formula IV



which A, B and L- have the meanings given in claim 1

wherein A and B are identical or different and, independently of one another, are C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl-C₁-C₂-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkenyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuryl, dioxanyl or phenyl, where the phenyl radical can carry one to three substituents chosen from the group: halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkyloxy, phenoxy, amino, C₁-C₂-haloalkyl or phenylsulfonyl, and

wherein L is a nucleophilically substitutable leaving group.

37. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The 4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium salt of the formula IV as claimed in claim 36, in which A and B are identical or different and are a phenyl radical substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy.

38. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The 4-amino-1,2,4-triazolium salt of the formula IV as claimed in claim 36, in which A is 4-fluorophenyl and B is 2-chlorophenyl.